

How We Grow: Practicing the Spiritual Disciplines
Small Group Discussion Questions
Week Eight - Service

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you hear the word "discipline," what comes to mind? Is "discipline" an off-putting term to you? Instead of thinking about the spiritual disciplines as areas where we have to "try harder," Jason suggested thinking of them as "training" God uses to grow our souls. In your mind, is this a helpful distinction?
2. Look at 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. In this passage, what does Paul have to say about this idea of "training" at a spiritual level?
3. Can you recall a time when you personally witnessed Christian service in action? What stood out to you the most about this example?
4. Read Galatians 5:13. What does it mean when it says that we have been "called to freedom?" How would you re-phrase the command "do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh" in your own words? According to the final line of this passage, what is the key ingredient of Christian service?
5. What are some of the barriers that keep us from serving others more fully? What are some practical ways we can overcome these barriers?
6. Read 1 Peter 4:10. Do you know some of your spiritual gifts? If so, how are you trying to steward this gift from God? If not, how can you find out your spiritual gift?
7. Jason emphasized that the idea of "ministry" is not limited to those who are employed by the church. The biblical idea is a broad one that covers all who follow Jesus. What is your ministry? What is your ministry to your family? To Mayfair? To your community?
8. Read Colossians 3:23-24. What does this passage teach us about service?
9. Read the following quote from John Henry Newman: "God has created me to do Him some definitive service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another I have a part in a great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall love as Christ loved, I shall do His work." What stands out to you about this quote? Is there a line that particularly resonates with you?
10. Close with some prayer time together.